division, where the number is large and the area small, and the cost of laying them out was not commensurate with their size.

77. The Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans, reports that both the Divisional Forest Officers of North and South Thána rendered him most efficient aid in testing the work of the Field Establishment, not only by seeing that the work on the ground corresponded with the coupe maps, but also by satisfying themselves that the several compartments had been properly located in accordance with the natural features of the ground, as depicted on the Topographical Maps, and that although such an inspection entailed additional work on the Divisional Forest Officers, still a better check was, no doubt, kept upon the work of Field Establishment, than could have been done by the Working Plans Officer, single-handed.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT.

1.—ESTABLISHMENTS.

78. Proposals for re-organizing the Forest Service in order to supply the recognized deficiency in the numerical strength of the establishments, chiefly by providing for the gradual development of indigenous agency, were submitted in October 1890, by the Government of India for the consideration of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, whose sanction to it was received by the Government of India on the 26th February 1891, and was published in this Presidency in Government Resolution No. 5685, dated 18th August 1891, in the Revenue Department. The revision scheme divides the superior forest service into two branches:—

First, the Imperial Forest Service of India to be recruited solely by officers directly appointed by the Secretary of State for India; and

Second, the Provincial Forest Service to be recruited entirely in India.

But effect was not given to this scheme during the year, and consequently there was no change in the controlling staff of the Forest Department, Northern Circle, which consisted of 1 Conservator of Forests and 13 Deputy and Assistant Conservators of Forests as in the year before. Some of these officers were absent on leave as under:—

Mr. R. C. Wroughton, Deputy Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade, and Divisional Forest Officer, Poona, on privilege leave for three months, granted to him in Government Resolution No. 1478, dated 27th April 1891, Financial Department.

Mr. H.W. Keys, Deputy Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade, and Divisional Forest Officer, Panch Mahálś, on privilege leave for three months, sanctioned under Government Resolution No. 2631, dated 24th July 1891, Financial Department.

79. Of the class Sub-Assistant Conservator, there are seven permanent appointments allotted to the Northern Circle, and they have been all occupied through-out the year.

80. The sanctioned complement of the subordinate Forest Establishment of the Northern Circle has been reduced by the following strength, owing to the transfer of the establishment belonging to the Karjat táluka and Khálápur petha from the Northern Circle to the Southern Circle :—

1	Forester, 2nd Grade	Rs.	30
1	Forester, 3rd Grade	„	20
4	Forest Guards at Rs. 12...	„	48
7	do. at „ 10 each	„	70
4	do. at „ 9 each	„	36
14	do. at „ 8 each	„	112
31	do. at „ 7 each	„	217
	Total Monthly Cost	Rs.	533

And the following statement will show the distribution and cost which amounts to Rs. 20,970 per mensem, of the existing sanctioned staff of the Northern Circle, exclusive of the strength mentioned above :—

No.	Divisions.	Number of Ranges.	Range Forest Officers.							Forest Guards.						Remarks.
			Rangers.				Foresters.									
			Rupees 100.	Rupees 80.	Rupees 60.	Rupees 50.	Rupees 40.	Rupees 30.	Rupees 20.	Rupees 15.	Rupees 12.	Rupees 10.	Rupees 9.	Rupees 8.	Rupees 7.	
1	North Thána ..	6								6	14	25	25	70	80	The pay of rangers and foresters is personal, and they are liable to be transferred from one range to another as the exigencies of the service may require. Consequently the number of appointments, in each grade is shown in lump for the whole Circle.
2	South Thána ..	6								8	19	18	19	56	84	
3	East Khándesh ..	13								8	16	20	20	40	76	
4	West Khándesh ..	10								7	14	18	18	50	102	
5	Násik	14								10	20	25	26	50	158	
6	Ahmednagar.. ..	11	3	4	6	12	20	29	29	6	12	22	22	50	85	
7	Poona..	11								9	17	26	25	60	120	
8	Sátára..	14								9	18	24	22	57	102	
9	Sholápur	7								3	6	11	8	16	68	
10	Surat	6								2	4	4	6	18	27	
11	Panch Mahála ..	5								2	5	10	10	30	48	
	Total ..	103	3	4	6	12	20	29	29	70	136	203	201	497	949	

81. In addition to the above the following temporary establishment was in entertainment throughout the year, in the divisions of Násik and Poona, where the existing permanent staff is inadequate to cope with the work of protection and management of the forest estates entrusted to their care :—

No.	Division.	Forest Guards.			Remarks.
		Rs. 8.	Rs. 7.	Total.	
1	Násik	3	3	6	Total monthly cost, Rs. 375.
2	Poona	15	30	45	
	Total ...	18	33	51	

82. Proposals for the re-organization of the subordinate forest staff, referred to in paragraphs 103 and 104 of last year's report, have not been sanctioned yet, but are still under the consideration of Government.

83. The following statement will show the existing strength and cost of the office establishment of the Northern Circle in which there was no change during the year :—

No.	Division.	Number and Gradation.											Monthly Cost.
		Clerks.								Peons.			
		Rs. 100.	Rs. 80.	Rs. 60.	Rs. 50.	Rs. 40.	Rs. 30.	Rs. 20.	Rs. 15.	Rs. 10.	Rs. 9.	Rs. 8.	
													Rs.
1	Direction	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	...	1	1	5	579
2	North Thána	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	1	3	203
2	South Thána	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	1	3	203
4	East Khándesh ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	3	183
5	West Khándesh ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	3	183
6	Násik	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	3	183
7	Ahmednagar	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	...	1	3	173
8	Poona	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	3	183
9	Sátára	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	..	1	3	183
10	Sholápur	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	1	3	158
11	Surat	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	3	183
12	Panch Mahálsa.. ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	1	3	158
13	7 Sub-Assistant Conservators' Offices ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	14	217
	Total ...	1	1	1	10	7	13	22	27	1	12	52	2,789

84. The total expenditure incurred upon forest establishments during the year has amounted to Rs. 4,58,993-3-9 as under :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
B. *I.a.*—Conservator's salary	18,000	0	0
B. *II.a.*—Conservator's travelling allowance ...	2,400	0	0
B. *I.b.*—Superior officers' salary	1,03,385	15	5
B. *II.b.*—Superior officers' travelling allowance ...	25,865	0	11
B. *I.c.*—Subordinate protective establishment's salary ...	2,49,169	13	8
B. *II.c.*—Subordinate protective establishment's travelling allowance	14,774	2	2
B. *I.d.*—Office establishment's salary	34,256	1	3
B. *II.d.*—Office establishment's travelling allowance ...	11,142	2	4
Total ...	4,58,993	3	9

2.—GENERAL PROTECTION AND BREACHES OF THE FOREST LAW.

85. Sixty-five cases of criminal prosecutions were awaiting trial by Magistrates when the official year opened ; four of these cases belonged to the two ranges, Karjat and Khálápur, which have been transferred to the Southern Circle, and they have therefore been deducted from the opening balance, which was then left at 61 : during the year 1891-92, 1,314 new cases were sent up to the Criminal Courts, making 1,375 cases on the registers. Out of this number, 1,262 cases were disposed of during the year, with the result that in 988 cases convictions were obtained and 274 cases were acquitted. 2,489 persons were convicted and punished, and 889 persons escaped under the 274 cases, which were acquitted. At the close of the year 113 cases were awaiting trial.

86. The following table furnishes a comparative statement of the number of cases tried before Magistrates for breaches of the forest law, during the year under report and the year preceding, with the results of the trials :—